

will enable a future board of directors, and at a small expense, to erect one or two new workshops, within the present yard, on an improved plan. The prisoners are not only on the increase, but are at present too much crowded, to labor to the best advantage. We have, however, with some difficulty, effected a separation of the youths from the adults, while at labor or at rest; and the occupancy of the new building will accomplish all that can be desired in respect to the latter state, for each prisoner will be lodged separately. If the word noble may be applied to an edifice of its kind, the new wing may be called a noble building. It is substantially erected, and fire proof—yet appears light, airy and tasteful. It contains 320 sleeping cells; but is so arranged, that every cell-door may be seen from either end of the building, by an officer on duty. We have been very anxious to have these cells occupied, and the building has been kept constantly ventilated or heated, according to the state of the weather; but the solid mass of masonry yet causes a dampness too great for the health of the prisoners. This building contains about 1,600,000 brick, and not less than 850 perches of stone; besides large quantities of flag-stone laid in the foundation or for floors of cells. The open space between the cells is used as a church, on Sundays, or as a school room, on that day. And I have the pleasure to add, that divine worship is conducted in a very becoming manner, and that the school is prosperous, under care of the kind gentlemen who give their services to ameliorate the condition of the unhappy inmates of this prison; and it is hoped, that some of them will profit greatly by the instruction thus obtained. There are, indeed, among the prisoners some few remarkable instances of a rapid progress in education.

But, from a closer and more intimate view of the subject, I have rather abandoned a hope I once entertained, of the general *reformation* of offenders, through the penitentiary system. I now think that its chief good is in the prevention of crime, by the confinement of criminals! Some, no doubt, are awakened to a sense of the degraded condition to which they have reduced themselves; but the great majority only regret the loss of their liberty. Many badly-disposed persons, are, surely, rendered more wicked, by their associations here, and others seem to calculate on indemnifying them-